## An Appeal for Mercy

**Abbreviations ;)( B) Bible ;(Q) Qur'an ;(S) Surah ;(C) /Chapter)**

**{Study of this particular subject, was done, after reading of both the Holy Bible(Torah & Gospel) and Al-Quran, copies of which were freely and indiscriminately distributed among Buddhists, encouraging them to read and study them, probably with a view ultimately, to win them over to their religions, to increase their numerical strength of adherents. Hence one cannot now ask us to mind our own business without interfering in their faiths}**

**Al-Qur'an was revealed in Arabic Language 610 years after Jesus Christ by Prophet Mohammed who did not know how to write or read.(Q:S:07:158). In other words Al-Qur'an is the latest abridged Arabic version of the Torah and Gospel, as confirmed therein itself by several verses. Vide (Q: S: 02:03) &(Q:S: 06::93)**

**Q:S:7:158: "The Prophet who can neither read nor write"**
**Q:S:02:03: "He hath revealed unto thee (Muhammad) the Scripture with truth, confirming that which was (revealed) before it, even as He revealed the Torah and the Gospel"**
**Q:S:06:93: "This is a blessed Scripture which We have revealed confirming that which (was revealed) before it"**

**Background to the Story as per Holy Bible**
**Abram was married to (Sar-a-I) Sarah. They did not have children. (Gen: 16:01) Sarah had an Egyptian handmaid called 'Hagar' (B:Gen: 16:16). Sarah told her husband 'Abram' to go into her bondwoman 'Hagar' and get a child. Consequently, when Abram was 86 years of age, bondwoman 'Hagar' gave birth to a son who was named as "Ishmael" (B:Gen: 16:16) Almighty God appeared to Abram when he was ninety years and nine (99 yrs) and told that he would be called in the future not as Abram but as Abraham .**

**(B:Gen:17:5):"neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham"**

**He was the 1st son of Abram by the bondwoman, fathered on the consent of Sarah. Subsequently on assuming his name as Abraham at 99 years of age and Sarah 90 years of age, Almighty God/Allah gave Abraham a son by Sarah, the legal wife, and the son was named as 'Isaac' B:Gen:22:12) He was the 1st son born to Abraham by his legal wife (Sarah).After the birth of son i.e. Isaac, his mother Sarah, wanted both mother Hagar and her son Ishmael to be thrown out of the house (B:Gen:21:10).Abram now known as Abraham sent them away to the wilderness.(B:Gen:21:14)**

**B:Gen:21:10:"Cast out this bond woman (Hagar) and her son(Ishmael) :for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my(Sarah"s) son even with Isaac"**

**<u>B:Gen:21:14</u>: "Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water and gave it unto 'Hagar' putting it on her shoulder and the child, and sent her away; and she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beer-she-ba"**

**<u>Story of Sacrifice</u>**

**Holy Bible says that Abraham took 'Isaac' on the instructions of the God to be offered him as a burnt offering on the mountain. Why God has referred to Isaac as Abraham's only son needs investigations. Although Ishmael was the 1st born son, to Abram by bondwoman, he was not the 1st son by his legal wife Sarah, (sister) the daughter of his father but not of his mother. Further Ishmael was not dwelling with the father at the time, as he and his mother had been cast out. Therefore, the traditional misconceived belief of the Muslims that it was son-Ishmael who was taken for sacrifice cannot be correct, as he was not living with Abraham at the time. Besides "Ishmael" would have been a young matured, intelligent boy of about 14 years of age. He would have obviously well passed the age of his ability to walk with his father as mentioned in Al-Quran, vide _ <u>(Q:S:37:102</u>: "Then when (the son)was old enough to walk with him ). .**

**In the Holy Bible it is dealt in the 1st Book of Moses entitled Genesis, vide Chapters 16; 17 & 21.whereas In Al-Qur'an this incident is referred to in Surah 37 Vide verses from: 101 to 113;**

**The family chart given below shows the genealogy of the descendants of one father before the changing of his name from 'Abram' (1st son) Ishmael and after changing to 'Abraham' (2nd son) Isaac.**

**(A) Jews/Christians are the descendants of Isaac born by legal wife Sarah**
**(B): Muslims are the descendants of Ishmael born by Sarah's bondwoman Ha-gar, ),**
**{C} besides Abraham had several sons by concubines also Vide:-**

**<u>B:Gen:25:06</u>: "Unto sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts and sent them away from Isaac his son**

**<u>Family Chart</u>:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Abraham Age 99 yrs) + (legal wife)* Sarah+ Age 90 yrs)** | **Abram(Age 86 yrs) + Ha-gar(Sarah's Egyptian handmaid)** |
| **Abraham Age 99 yrs) when 1st Son Isaac was born by Sarah*** | **Abram (Age 86 yrs) when 1st Son Ishmael was born by Ha-gar.** |
| **(Jews are descendents of Isaac)** | **(Muslims are descendents-Ishmael)** |

**Vide:-**

**<u>B:Gen:16:01</u>: "Sar-a-i" Abram's wife bare him no children; and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was "Ha-gar"**

**<u>B:Gen:16:16</u>: "Abram was fourscore and six years (86 yrs) old when Ha-gar bare Ishmael to Abraham"**

**<u>B:Gen:22:12</u>: "Thine <u>only son(Isaac) from me</u>(God/Allah)"**

**<u>This is what Holy Bible Says about Abraham's sacrifice of his Son.</u>.**

**<u>B:Gen:22:2</u>: Take now thy son, thine <u>only son Isaac</u>, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Mo-ri-ah and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of"**

**<u>B:Gen:22:3</u>: Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up and went unto the place of which God had told him.**

**<u>B:Gen:22:4</u>: "Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off."**

**<u>B:Gen:22:5:</u> "Abraham said unto this young men, abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship and come again to you"**

**<u>Gen:22:6</u>: "Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said My father; and he said, here am I, my son, He said behold the fire the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?**

**<u>B:Gen:22:12</u>: "He said Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him; for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine <u>only son</u> <u>from me(God)</u>**

**This is what-Al-Qur'an says about the sacrifice of Abraham's son.(S:37:100 to 113)**

**<u>Q:S:37:100</u>: O my Lord!! Grant me a righteous (son).**

**<u>Q:S:37:101</u>: "So We gave him the good news of a boy ready to suffer and forbear".**

**<u>Q:S:37:102</u>: "Then when (the son)was old enough to walk with him. He said my son! I see in vision that I offer thee in sacrifice; now see what thy view is! I (the son) said O my father! Do as thou art commanded thou will find me, if God so will one practicing patience and constancy!"**

**<u>Q:S:37:103</u>: "So when they had both submitted their will (to God) and he had laid him Prostrate on his forehead (for sacrifice)"**

**<u>Q:S:37:104</u>: "We called out to him "O Abraham!"**

**<u>Q:S:37:105</u>: " Thou hast already fulfilled the vision. Lo! thus do we reward the good.**

**<u>Q:S:37:106</u>: " Lo! That verily was a clear test"**

**<u>Q:S:37:107</u>: The We ransomed him with a tremendous victim"**

**<u>Q:S:37:112</u>: "And We gave him the good news of Isaac – prophet-one of the righteous."**

**<u>Q:S:37:113</u>: "We blessed him (Abraham) and Isaac: "**

**N.B.(No mention, whatsoever, is made to 'Ishmael' anywhere in this Surah:37: but to Isaac)**

**<u>The facts to be considered</u>.**

**The genuine purpose of this study is to enlighten the Muslims and see whether it is feasible to save the lives of millions of innocent beasts that are being annually slaughtered by Muslims, as traditional sacrificial offerings to commemorate the above mentioned historical incident that took place during Abraham's period in the light of the following facts summarized for earnest consideration.**

**(i) The age of Abram was 86 years when Ishmael was born (B:Gen: 16:16).**

**(ii) Abram whose name was changed to Abraham (B:Gen:17:05) was 100 years of age when Isaac was born.**

**(iii) Ishmael was born when Abram (not Abraham) was 86 years (B:Gen:16:16)**

**(iv) Isaac was born to Sarah and Abraham when they were aged 90 and 100 years of age respectively (B: Gen:17:21).**

**(v) It was only after the birth of Isaac that, both Ishmael and his mother Hagar were cast out into the wilderness, on the orders of Sarah (B:Gen:21:10:-.)retaining Isaac as their only son.**

**(vi)_. Further, Allah did not give (son) Ishmael to Abram and Hagar; in the same way (son) Isaac was given to Abraham and Sarah. Isaac was the God given son in their old age.**

**(vii) In the above context and in legal parlance (son) Isaac can be considered as the only God given son or the 1st son of Abraham by his legal wife Sarah., as evident from Vide (B:Gen:22:12)**

**(viii) Besides, (son)"Ishmael" was born to "Abram" before his name was changed to Abraham, at the age of 100 years.**

**(ix) When son, "Isaac" by mother, "Sarah" was born, son, "Ishmael" was a young boy (of over 14 -years of age) who was circumcised at the age of 13 years. (B:Gen:17:23) (x) When (son) Isaac was born Abraham had several sons by concubines and they were also sent away after giving gifts.B:Gen:25:6)This means Abraham has several sons.**

**Muslims all over the world falsely believe that "Ishmael" is the 1st born son of Abraham. He was the 1st son born to 'Abram' but not to 'Abraham', whereas, according to the Holy Bible as given above, it clearly mentions that "Isaac" is not only the 1st son of Abraham but also the son given to Sarah in her old age, by Almighty God as promised, Evidently, after the birth of son Isaac all the other children were sent away retaining only Isaac entitling him to the legacy, even changing the names of Parents from 'Abram' to 'Abraham' and from 'Sar-a-I' to 'Sarah', leaving no room for a possible legal claim for inheritance.**

**As per Holy Bible, Abraham took his only son "Isaac" for a sacrifice as instructed by God to Abraham. Vide:- (B:Gen:22:2: "Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac …….and offer him there for a burnt offering")**

**Abraham would have undoubtedly loved his son Ishmael who was with him more for than 13years, before his God given new son Isaac was born in his old age., Though he was forced to send away out of the house his son Ishmael and his mother to wilderness on the persistence of his beloved (sister) legal wife Sarah, Abraham knew the root cause of the God given son Isaac. Therefore he would have thought of giving back Isaac to the Giver, God to solve the problem.**

**Notwithstanding of the Bible story, and the revelations in Al-Qur'an,the Muslims all over the world fallaciously believe that it was Abram's son" Ishmael" who was taken for the sacrifice and annually celebrate this ancient incident re-enacting by slaughtering animals, in all the counties where Muslims live, making it an inviolable**

**tradition. . This appears to be a strong man made 'evil' tradition ,not taking into consideration the true facts, to slaughter animals on a mass scale to provide flesh for consumption (without burning them), taking cover under an ancient incident misinterpreting it to suit their misdeeds.**

**<u>Oxford Dictionary Meaning</u>: To Commemorate is to honour the memory of as a mark of respect especially with a ceremony or memorial.**

**In the above context, it is not understood, in honour of whose memory the rehearsal of the incident is repeated performed annually. Is it in Commemoration of all the involved parties i.e. one of Abram's son 'Ishmael' or Abraham's son ' Isaac' or (father) "Abraham" or "the Ram," the unfortunate innocent victim of the circumstances.**

**Mr.Yusuf Ali, the faithful, erudite, English Language translator of Al-Qur'an, somewhat prejudiced in his commentaries nevertheless, without reading and understanding the contents of Surah 37; makes comparisons with contents of Holy Bible in an attempt to put some light on this contentious issue, but ends up simply saying, that the boy thus born was according to Muslim tradition, which however is not unanimous on this point, is the first-born son of Abram i.e. Ishmael and not the 1st born son to Abraham by Sarah.**

**The most respected English translator of Al-Qur'an Mr.Yusuf Ali, for some reason or other, without clearly analyzing the issue, also, has given into strongly misinterpreted traditional view that now only sensible, erudite, fearless, spiritual leaders can rectify, if they are of course, so interested in revealing the truth and prevent slaughtering of thousand and thousands of innocent animals...**

**Is it, in anyway, correct, to commemoratively re-enact this incident annually, by slaughtering beasts, emulating the manner in which Prophet Abraham, sacrificed a ram, the unfortunate victim of the circumstances that led Abraham to offer it, instead of his own son Isaac, for a burnt offering as Abraham was left with no alternative other than to offer the terrified innocent" ram" (a beast) found entangled in a thicket by its horns.**

**When it clearly says that a "ram" was sacrificed for a burnt offering instead of the first born son of Abraham, conversely, it means that a ram's precious life was substituted to the life of a future human prophet.**

**However, it must be emphasized that Allah expects only devotion from the believers (vide**

**<u>Q:S:22:37</u>: " Their flesh and blood reach not Allah, but the devotion from you reach him"**

**One of the unfortunate innocent beasts (a ram), which got entangled in a thicket, was forcibly taken to offer to god as a sacrifice to save the life of Abraham's son (whether it was" Ishmael" or" Isaac", is immaterial), the life of a future prophet. The**

**followers of these religions, not being grateful to the animal kind, over whom "Jehovah/Allah" has given only dominion, hold annual feasts ignoring the fact that one of its members was made a substitute, a victim, to be sacrificed its life, for a burnt offering to save a human, a future prophet. (B: Gen: 22:8: God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering) Muslims all over the world are inflicting the hardest punishment, not only on one "Ram' but on thousand and thousands of innocent dumb animals, by slaughtering them, instead of liberating beasts from death in appreciation of the noble sacrifice that an animal was forced to make in saving the life of a future prophet.**

**<u>Q:S:06:38</u>: "There is not an animal in the earth; nor a flying creature flying on two wings, but they are peoples like unto you".**
**Re above it is clear that Allah/ God accepted an animal for sacrifice instead of a human being because animals are peoples like human beings.**

**As per Holy Bible and Al-Qur'an, the 1st man (Adam) who was sculptured out of clay (1) in the image of God, (2) after his likeness,(3) to have dominion over animals,(4)coming to know 'good and evil' after eating of the tree of knowledge of 'good and evil' on the recommendation of Satan/Iblis (5) opening their eyes to see their nakedness also to feel ashamed of their nakedness thus (6)becoming angels of themselves, only short of becoming immortal Gods, as the man was prevented from eating of the 'tree of life', now resort to such ungodly or inhuman actions.**

> **<u>Q:S:7:20</u>: "Your Lord forbade you from this tree, save that you should become angels or become of the immortals"**

**Only humans (not animals) have gained the knowledge of the"opposites", after eating of the forbidden tree of "good and evil" to differentiate "good" from "evil" The only criterion available to test and to determine whether one's action is "good or evil" is to relate one's actions to the divine "Guidance and Mercy" given to Moses on the Mount Sinai inscribed in his own handwriting on the two stone tablets as per Al-Qur'an...**

**(According the Holy Bible, these "Guidance and Mercy" mentioned in Al-Qur'an, referred to as divine 'Ten Commandments' given to Moses on the Mount Sinai, inscribed in his own handwriting on two stone tables which divine rules are listed in the Holy Book for easy reference)**

**In this context, the Noble divine Commandment "Thou shall not kill" should be strictly adhered to, unless unavoidable circumstances compelled to violate it praying for mercy or clemency.**

**It is mentioned in Al-Quran itself that Mohammad was illiterate and could not read or write, thus enabling those who could read and write to compile Al-qur'an. Mohammad because of his inability could not have even done proof reading of it. Al-Qur'an has heavily depended on 'Torah' and 'Gospel'. The fact that Al-Qur'an is only a confirmation the 'Torah' and 'Gospel' is repeatedly almost monotonously mentioned therein.**

**Further what the 'Guidance and Mercy' received by Moses on the Mount Sinai inscribed on two stone tablets, is not detailed out, in Al-Qur'an depriving the blind followers of the knowledge of them. Whether concealing of the fact cannot be a result of an omission by the scribes, or an intentional deletion of it the book with or without the knowledge of Mohammad, to please the Arabic speaking caravan merchants, to indulge in sin of violating commands only implementing in liberally granting 'mercy' to retain within ' Islam, apparent to be the truth.**

**Q:S:II:159:" Those who hide the proofs of the "Guidance and Mercy" which we revealed, after We had made it clear in the scripture: such are <u>accursed</u> of Allah and <u>accursed</u> of those who have the power <u>to curse</u>"**

**The only solution for the genuinely faithful 'intelligent' and 'educated' Siri Lankan Muslims who have read the' Torah' and 'Gospel' and of course 'Al-Qur'an ', is without getting <u>accursed by Allah</u> and <u>accursed by</u> <u>those who have power to curse</u>, is to set an exemplary example to the whole Muslim world by becoming lay Christians who can adhere to 'Ten commandments' or lay Buddhists who observe the noble precepts that are akin to commandments and live and let live.**

**It is "better late than never",.**

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**Sithi Aravinda P. Muthukumarana**
**No. 126**
**Hill Street**
**Dehiwala**